

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-7, 9, 21, 22, and 24-26, and add new claims 31 and 32 as noted on the pages that follow.

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Applicants submit, for consideration, the accompanying formal drawings for Figures 1-12, which have been amended, as appropriate, according to the Examiner's objections. Further, Applicants submit, for consideration, new drawing labeled Figure 13, which shows an illustration of a panel incorporating the fastening system disclosed in the present application. Applicants respectfully request consideration and authorization to add the same by the Examiner.

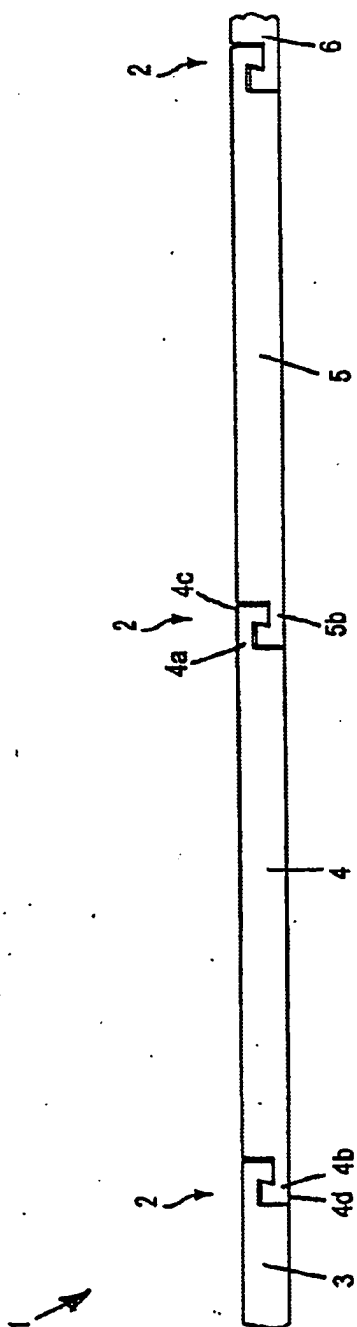


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

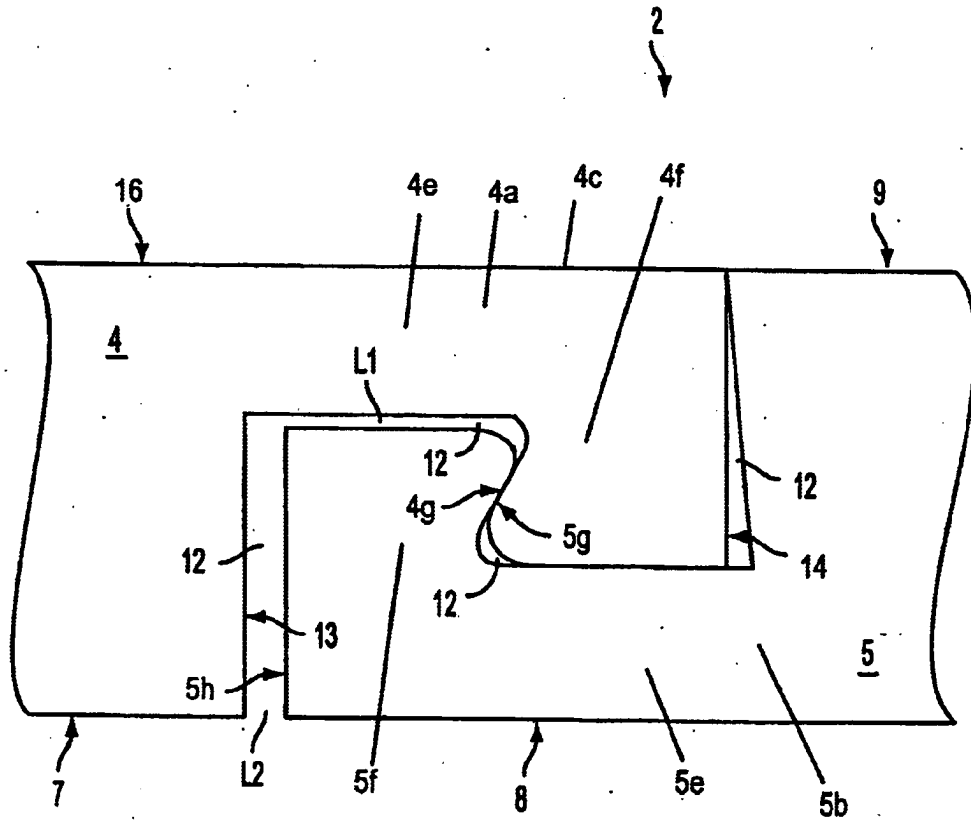


FIG. 3

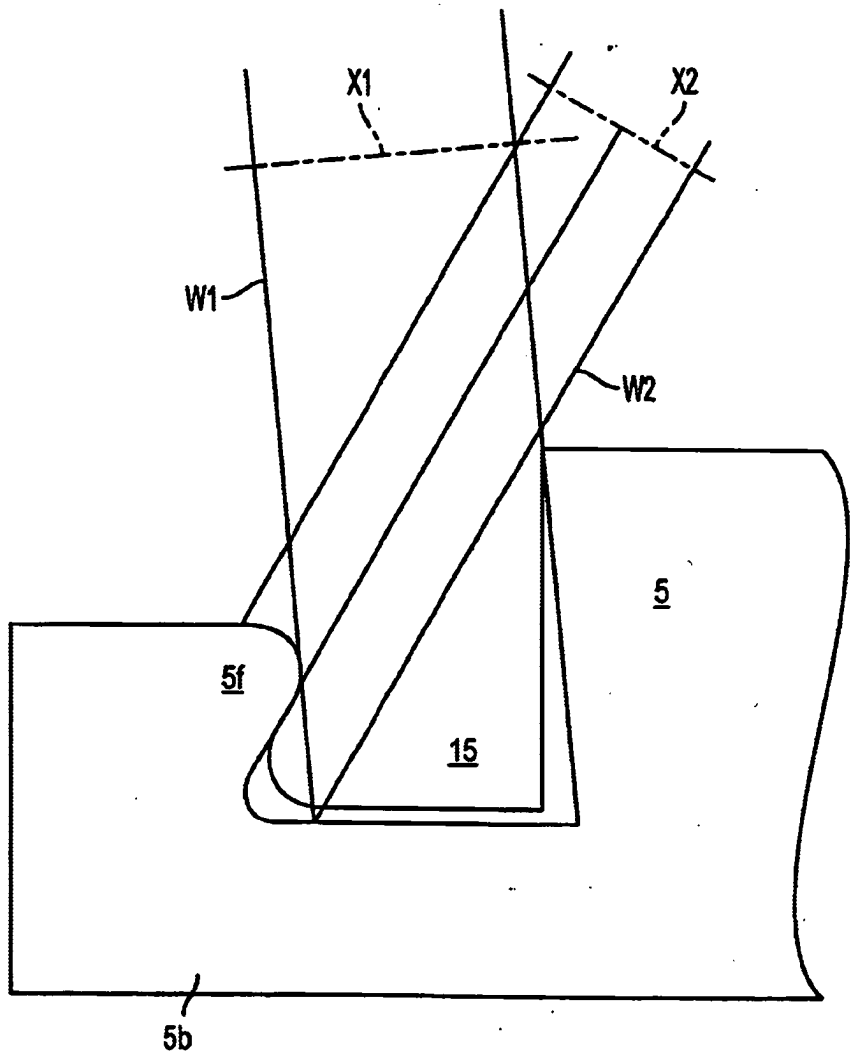


FIG. 4

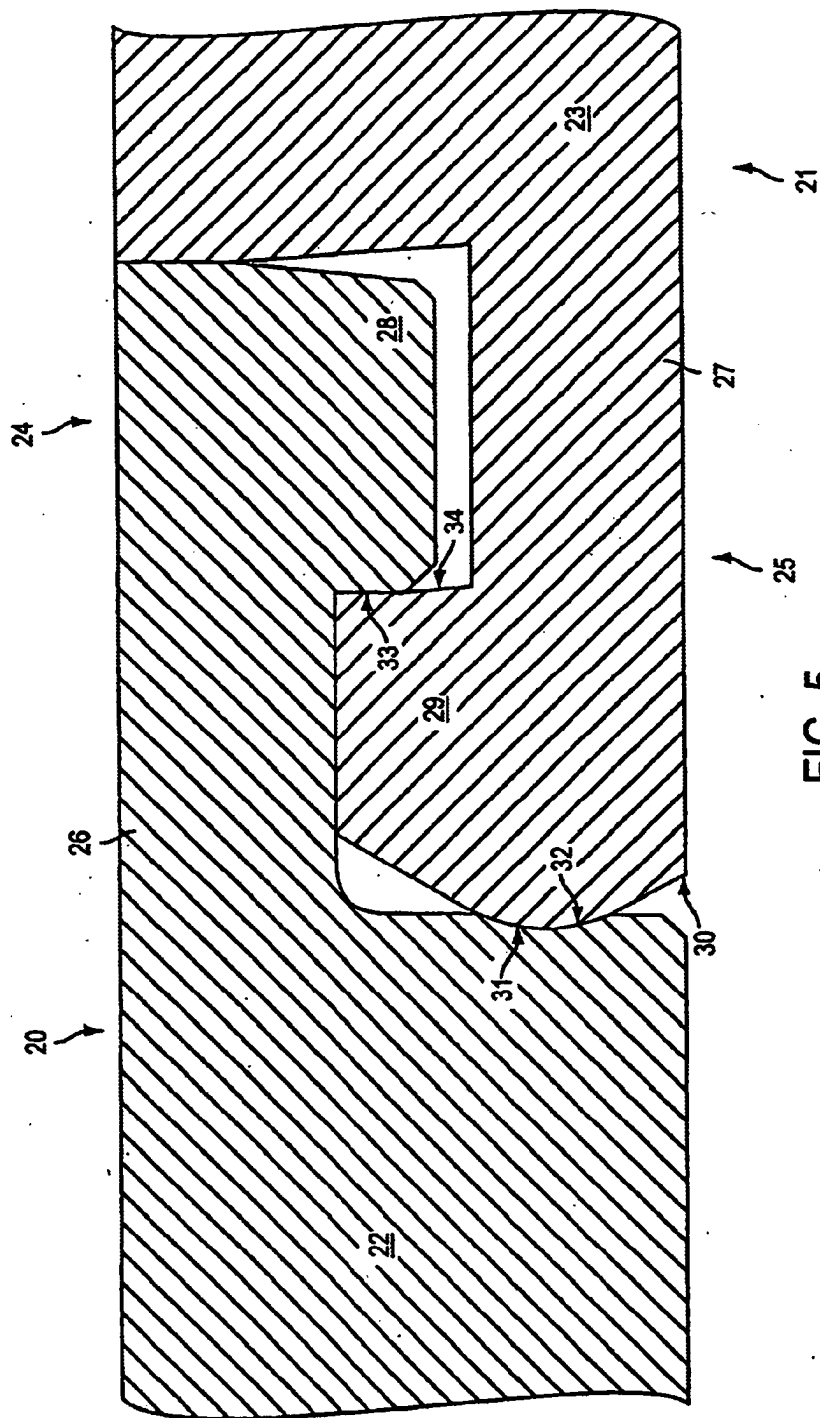


FIG. 5

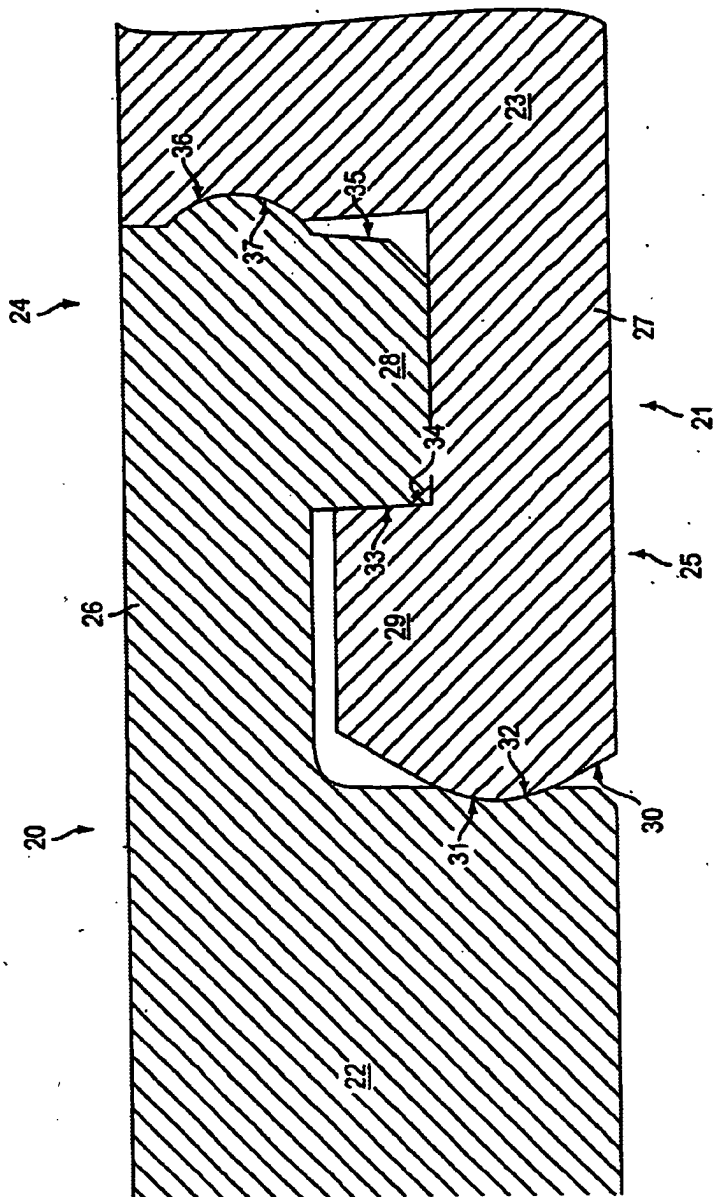
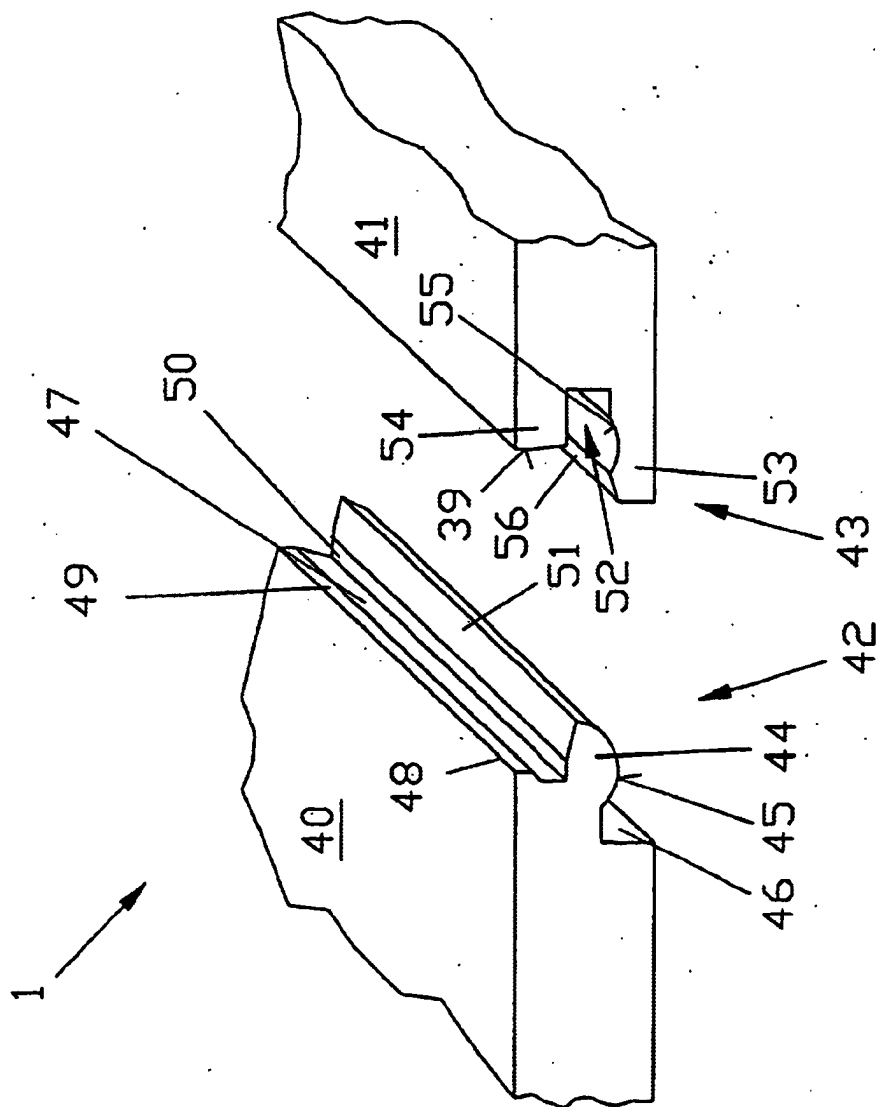


FIG. 5.1



**FIG. 6**



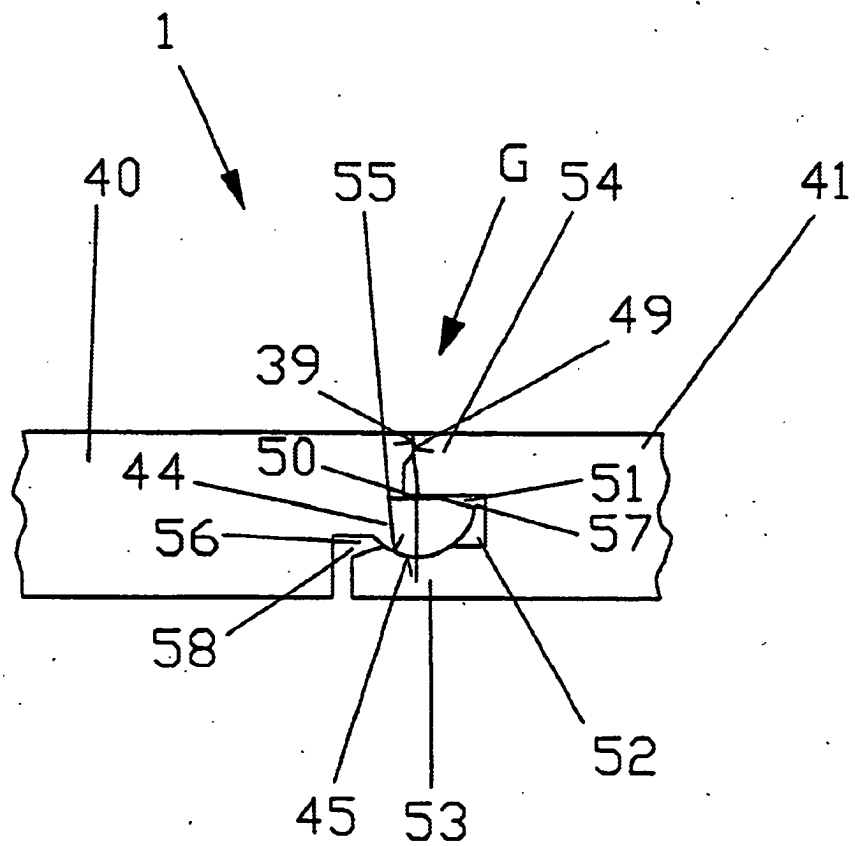
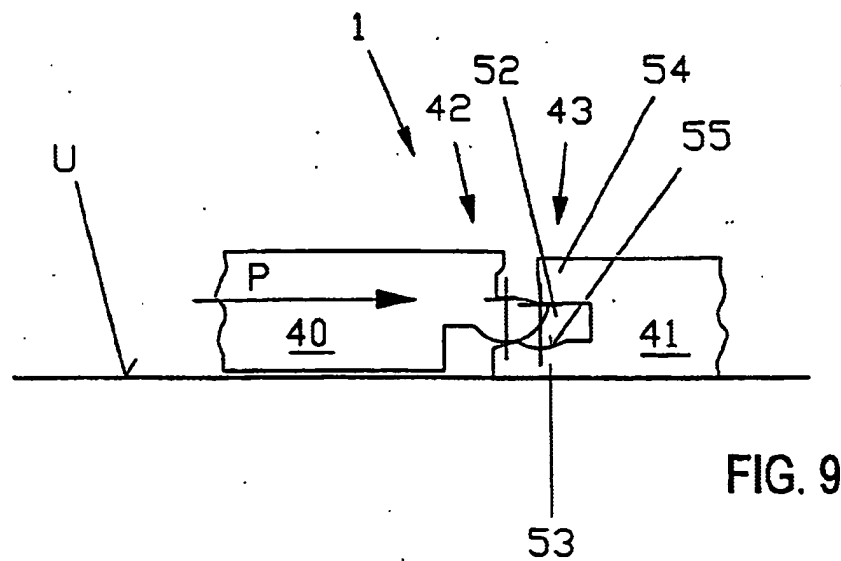
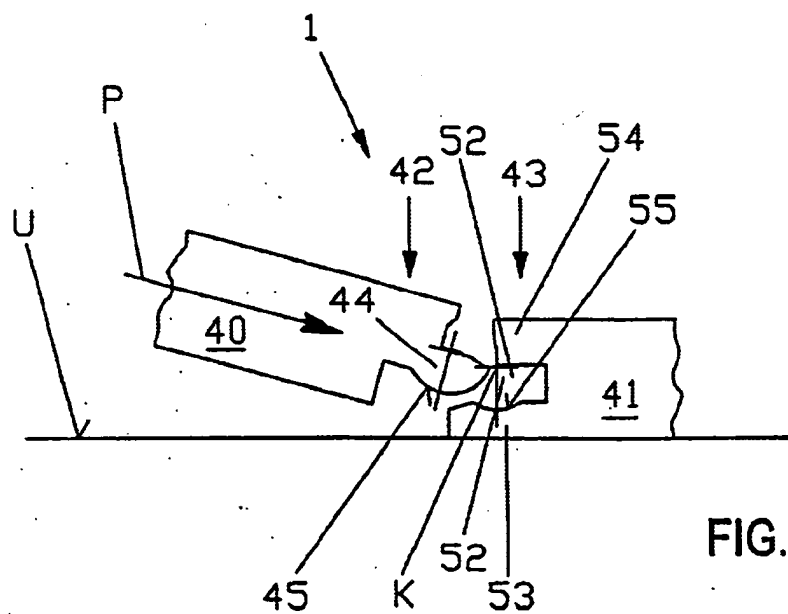


FIG. 7



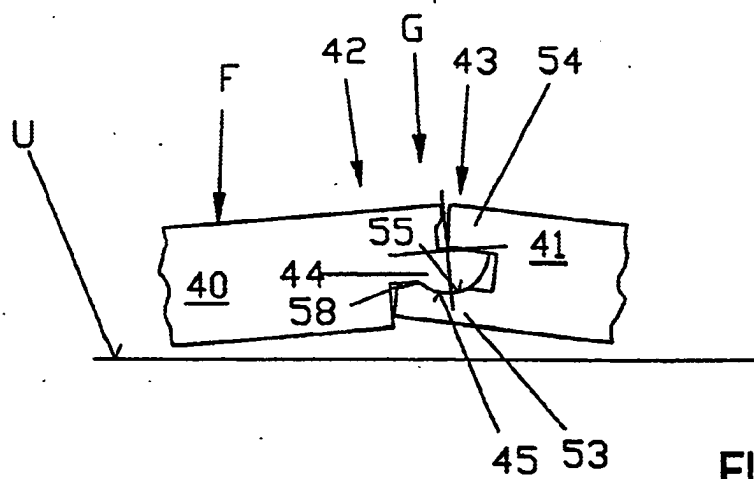


FIG. 10

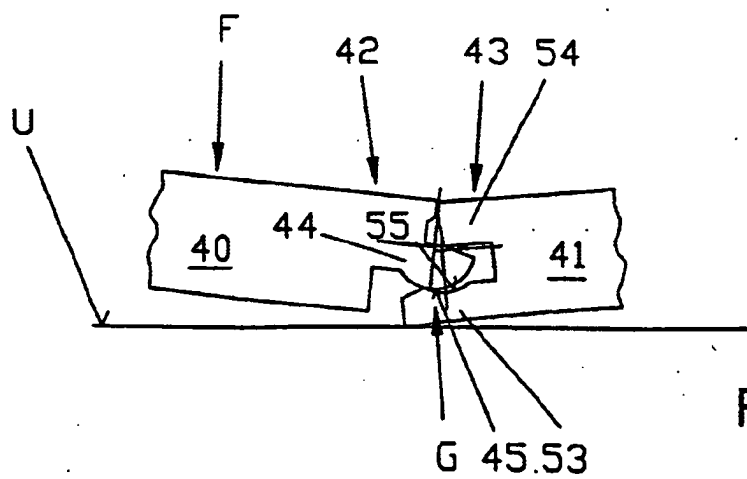


FIG. 11

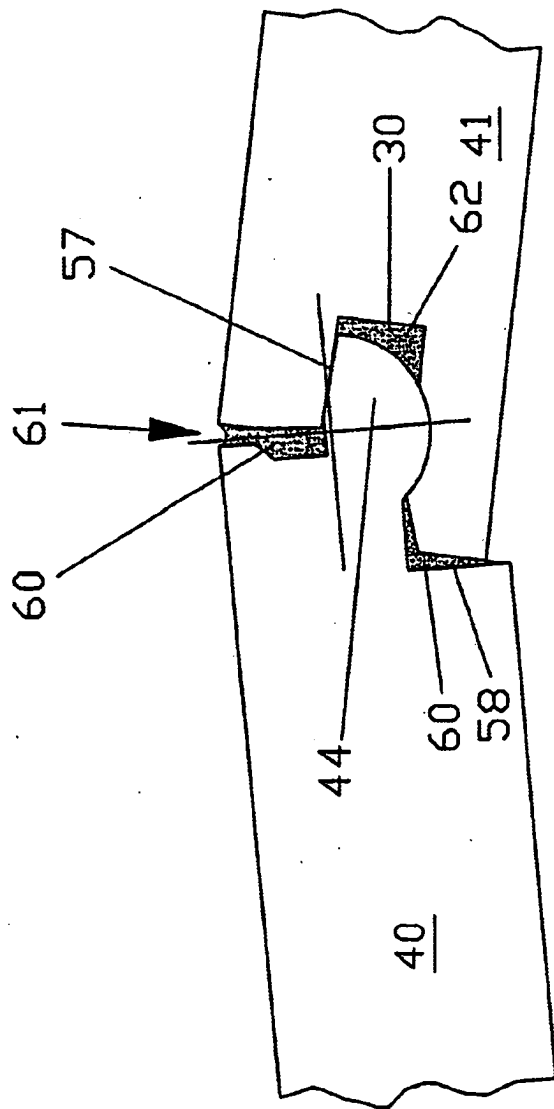


FIG. 12

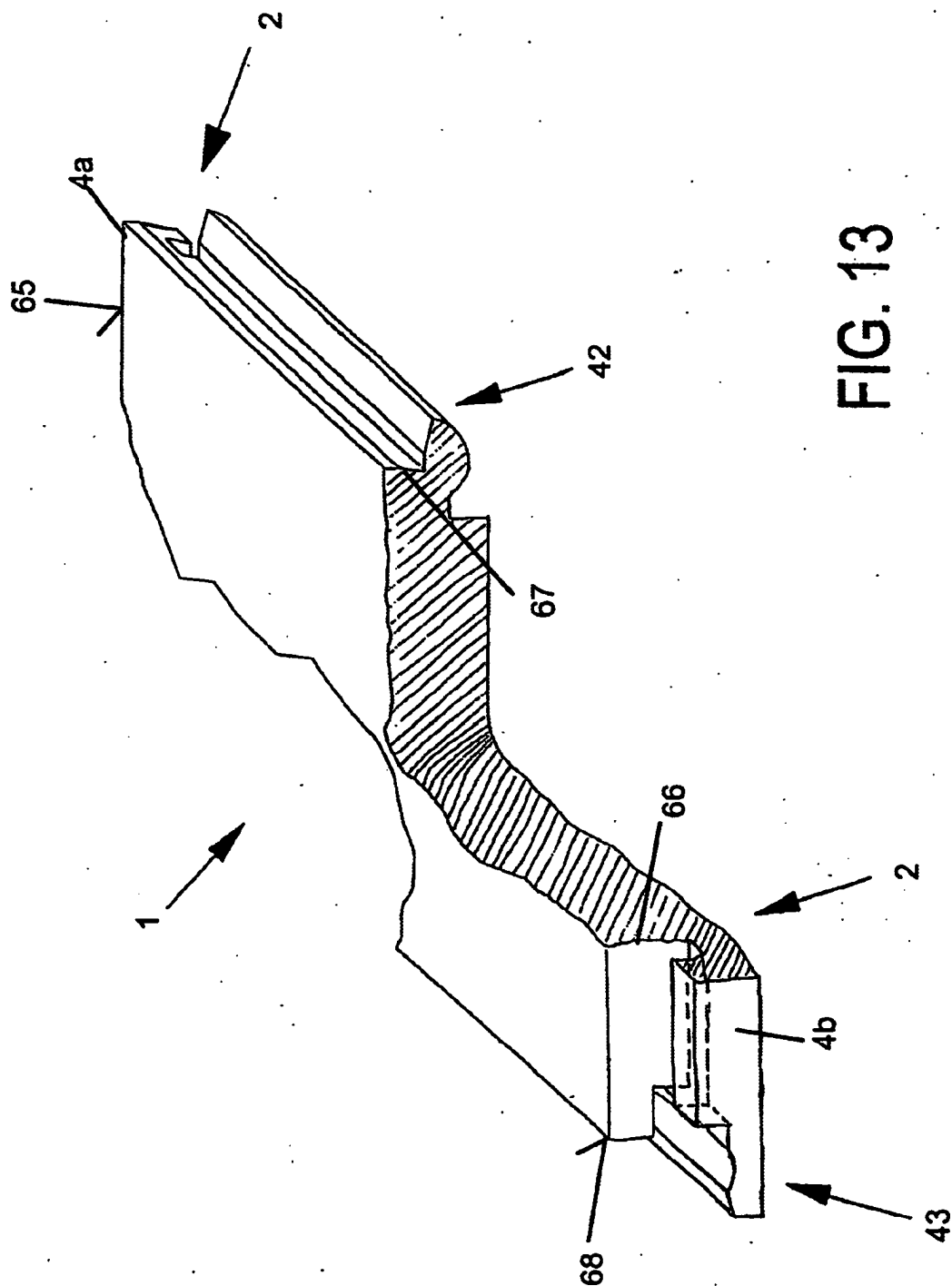


FIG. 13